

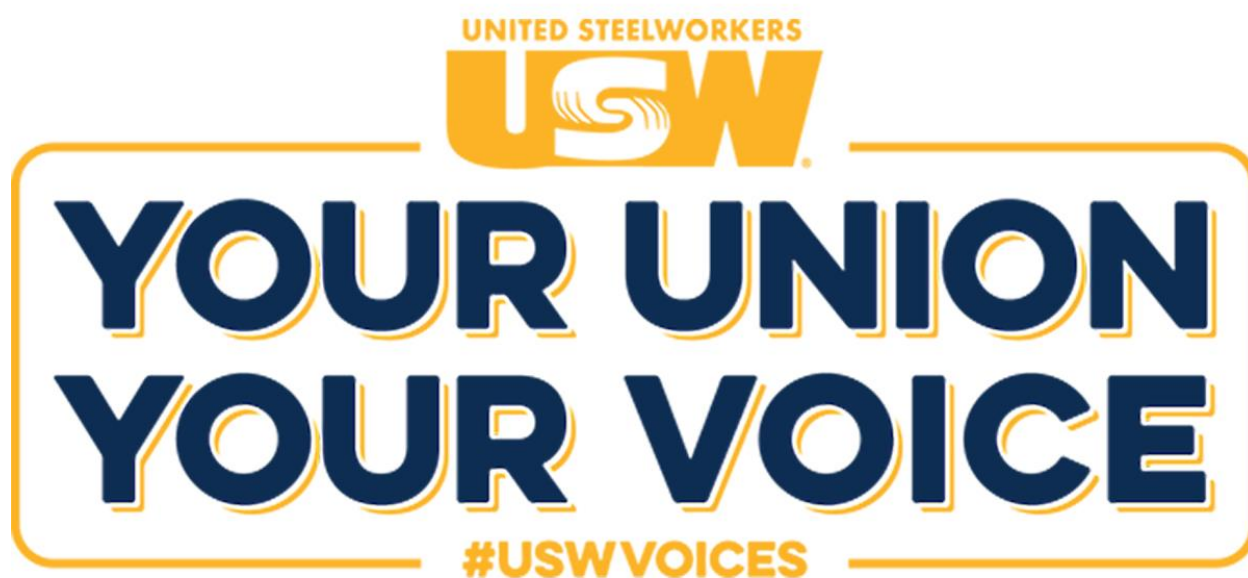


WOMEN OF STEEL NEWS

JULY 2024

FROM THE UNION

There's still time to volunteer and get out the vote!



Women's rights activists know more than anyone that there is a tremendous amount on the line this year for our future. That's why we're getting started with our Good Trouble election work now.

You can join us in these vital efforts by volunteering to write postcards, call or text voters, or participate in canvassing!

We know it will take all of us pitching in for working families to succeed. Thank you in advance for helping out!

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler reiterates labor's support for reproductive rights

As the impact of the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* continues to ripple across the country, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler released a video reiterating the labor organization's support for reproductive rights.

"Access to reproductive health care is critical for women to be able to work, earn more money, and make our own decisions about our lives and careers," said Shuler. "That's why access to good health care, including reproductive health care, is a key collective bargaining issue in our union contracts."

Shuler also highlighted the fact that women of color and working-class families are most impacted as they already struggle with systemic barriers to health care.

"As the first woman to serve as president of the AFL-CIO, I want say loud and clear: the labor movement is fully committed to gender and economic equity," Shuler said.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL VIDEO.](#)

SISTER STORIES

Local 105 member Tonya Clark leads with love of community and service

Tonya Clark works at aluminum manufacturer Arconic in Northern Iowa and is a proud member of Local 105. She serves in a multitude of positions, including steward, trustee, recording secretary, Women of Steel chair, and delegate.

For Clark, helping others comes naturally. Prior to getting hired at Arconic, she worked in home healthcare where she served some of the most vulnerable community members. Now, she is grateful to lend a hand via her union that feels like home.

"I love being a part of a union," said Clark. "It's like being in a family, and you're fighting for what is right."

Clark said that there are plenty of members who don't understand what it means to be in a union. She believes it requires looking at the bigger picture.

"It's not just about wages," Clark said. "You meet wonderful people, you learn different things. It's so much more."

Clark uses her privilege in the union to give back to the surrounding community. Before coming to Arconic roughly ten years ago, she would donate clothing and serve food at a local homeless



shelter. Now, she's honored that her Local 105 siblings participate with her in this and other projects.

"A lot of these people have mental issues, or they're lost because they have no family left, or they've been assaulted and don't know how to find themselves again," Clark said.

This empathy is what has always guided her, because she knows what it means to struggle.

"I didn't always have a lot of money when my kids were younger. I would stand in the Toys for Tots line, even when it was cold and my toes were freezing," she said. "Now, it's my turn to help, and I do it happily."

Clark is someone who has, literally, given someone the clothing off her back. During a dinner at the shelter, a young girl mentioned that she didn't own a jacket. Clark removed her coat and gave it to the girl, no questions asked.

"I just like to see a smile on people's faces," Clark said.

IN THE NEWS

New report shows need for more research on women's health

Women's health requires more attention from policymakers, health systems, and researchers alike, according to a recent report highlighting gaps in current understanding concerning chronic conditions that specifically or predominantly affect women.

The report, published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, reveals that women in the United States have a higher incidence of numerous conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, depression, and osteoporosis, compared to men.

Additionally, women face unique health issues linked to their distinct physiology, biology, and reproductive life cycle.

The USW's Raising the Bar on Women's Health and Safety initiative continues to highlight these disparities as we fight for true equity in health and safety for our sisters. For more information on this initiative, email us at wos@usw.org.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT.](#)

UN Human Rights Council sees growing efforts against women and gender rights

The UN Human Rights Council adopted several resolutions supporting women and gender rights this week amidst an unprecedented effort by some member countries to remove references to women's rights, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The resolutions, including one eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls, were adopted after several attempts were made to change "controversial" wording.

Amendments were proposed to remove references to gender, sexuality, and women's and girls' right to bodily autonomy.

Although the resolutions have been adopted, the debate highlights the fragility of hard-won advancements. As members of the labor movement, we recognize that an injury to one is an injury to all. We must reaffirm our commitment to supporting women's and gender rights both in the U.S. and globally and strengthen our resolve to work toward true equity for all.

[CLICK HERE FOR A VIDEO FROM THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.](#)